

# MSC Guidelines for Review of Two-deck spaces

## Plan Review Guidance #: SOLAS-13

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**Effective Date** 11/15/02

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**Regulations**

- ☐ SOLAS 2001 Cite: II-2/9.2.2.3.2.2
- ☐ SOLAS 1974 Cite: II-2/26.2

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**Disclaimer**

These guidelines were developed by the Marine Safety Center staff as an aid in the preparation and review of vessel plans and submissions. They were developed to supplement existing guidance. They are not intended to substitute or replace laws, regulations, or other official policy by the Coast Guard or the International Maritime Organization. The responsibility to demonstrate compliance with all applicable laws and regulations still rests with the plan submitter. The Coast Guard and the U.S. Department of Transportation expressly disclaim liability resulting from the use of this document.

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**Contact Information**

If you have any questions or comments concerning this document, please contact the Marine Safety Center by e-mail or phone. Please refer to the Plan Review Guidance #: SOLAS-13.

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**Regulation Text**

"...Smaller, enclosed rooms within a space that have less than 30% communicating openings to that space are considered separate spaces. The fire integrity of the boundary bulkheads and decks of such smaller rooms shall be prescribed in tables 9.1 and 9.2."

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**Guidance**

Deck openings that are less than 30% open, relative to the surface area of the lower space (i.e. the ceiling of the lower space), should be protected. The transmission of heat, smoke, and flame through the deck opening should be addressed. The expectation is that protection measures will limit heat, smoke, and flame transmission through the opening when a fire occurs at any point in the lower space. Additionally, passengers and crew in both the lower and upper spaces should have time to safely evacuate the space in the event of a fire in the lower space. Therefore, immediate notification should be provided to the upper space when a fire occurs in the lower space.

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**Background**

See U.S. position paper to FP/44/2 (October 1999) regarding "Mooring Decks, Deck Openings, Egress Routes".

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